

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims which follows will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A mounting block configured to receive a telescoping handle for a transport device, comprising:
a base; and

a release and retaining mechanism configured to secure the telescoping handle to the base while enabling the telescoping handle to adjust its position relative to the base without separating the telescoping handle from the base when the release and retaining mechanism is installed and to separate the telescoping handle from the base when the release and retaining mechanism is removed [[prevent the telescoping handle from disengaging during normal use and to allow the telescoping handle to be removed and replaced]].

2. (Currently Amended) The mounting block of claim 1, wherein the telescoping handle comprises an inner segment and an outer segment, wherein the inner segment slides within the outer segment thereby adjusting the position of the telescoping handle relative to the base [[further comprising a plurality of release and retaining mechanisms]].

3. (Currently Amended) The mounting block of claim [[1]]2, wherein the release and retaining mechanism comprises a retaining clip.

4. (Currently Amended) The mounting block of claim 3, wherein the retaining clip is installed or ~~[[uninstalled]]~~ removed using one ~~[[ore]]~~ or more screws.

5. (Currently Amended) The mounting block of claim ~~[[4]]~~3, ~~[[wherein the]]~~ further comprising a collar defining an opening for receiving the inner segment of the telescoping handle and the release and retaining mechanism is disposed adjacent the collar for securing the inner segment to the base when installed ~~[[one or more screws are configured to stand out in a manner that makes the one or more screws easy to locate]]~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The mounting block of claim ~~[[5]]~~4, further comprising a first collar and a second collar separated by a gap, where the first collar and the second collar each has an opening that is aligned for receiving the inner segment, and the release and retaining mechanism is disposed within the gap for securing the inner segment to the base when installed ~~[[wherein the one or more screws are painted]]~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The mounting block of claim ~~[[3]]~~4, wherein at least one of the retaining clip and the screw is configured to stand out relative to the base ~~[[in a manner that makes the retaining clip easy to locate]]~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The mounting block of claim 7, wherein at least one of the retaining clip and the screw is painted in a color that is contrast to a color of the base.

9. (Currently Amended) The mounting block of claim [[2]]6, wherein the inner segment comprises a retaining sleeve surrounding the inner segment and having a groove, and the first collar, the second collar and the gap are sized and shaped to receive the retaining sleeve such that the groove and the gap are aligned when the sleeve is received within the first collar and the second collar [[the release and retaining mechanism, comprises a plurality of mechanisms acting in concert to perform the release and retaining function performed by the release and retaining mechanism]].

10. (Amended) A telescoping handle assembly for a transport device, comprising:

a telescoping handle comprising an inner segment and an outer segment, the inner segment adapted to slide within the outer segment; and

a mounting block configured to receive the telescoping handle, the mounting block comprising a base and a release and retaining mechanism configured to secure the inner segment to the base while enabling the inner segment to adjust its position relative to the base without separating the inner segment from the base when the release and retaining mechanism is installed and to separate the inner segment from the base when the release and retaining mechanism is removed [[prevent the telescoping handle from disengaging during normal use and to allow the telescoping handle to be removed and replaced]].

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The telescoping handle assembly of claim 10, wherein the release and retaining mechanism comprises a retaining clip.

13. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle assembly of claim 12, wherein the retaining clip is installed or ~~[[uninstalled]]~~ removed using one or more screws.

14. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle assembly of claim ~~[[13]]~~10, wherein the block further comprises a collar defining an opening for receiving the inner segment and the release and retaining mechanism is disposed adjacent the collar for securing the inner segment to the base when installed ~~[[one or more screws are configured to stand out in a manner that makes the one or more screws easy to locate]]~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle assembly of claim 14, wherein the block further comprises a first collar and a second collar separated by a gap, where the first collar and the second collar each has an aligned opening for receiving the inner segment, and the release and retaining mechanism is provided within the gap for securing the inner segment to the base when installed ~~[[the one or more screws are painted]]~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle assembly of claim 12, wherein at least one of the retaining clip and the screw is configured to stand out relative to the base ~~[[in a manner that makes the retaining clip easy to locate]]~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle assembly of claim 16, wherein at least one of the retaining clip and the screw is painted in a color that is contrast to a color of the base.

18. (Currently Amended) The telescoping handle assembly of claim 11, wherein [[the release and retaining mechanism, comprises a plurality of mechanism acting in concert to perform the release and retaining function performed by the release and retaining mechanism]] the inner segment comprises a retaining sleeve surrounding the inner segment and having a groove, and the first collar, the second collar and the gap are sized and shaped to receive the retaining sleeve such that the groove and the gap are aligned when the retaining sleeve is received within the first collar and the second collar.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for replacing a telescoping handle for a transport device that is secured to a mounting block, comprising:

providing the telescope handle comprising an inner segment and an outer segment wherein the inner segment slides within the outer segment and wherein the inner segment is secured to a base of the mounting block by a release and retaining mechanism while enabling the inner segment to adjust its position relative to the base without separating the inner segment from the base;

disengaging [[a]] the release and retaining mechanism;

[[removing]] separating the inner segment [[telescoping handle]] from the base;

installing a new inner segment [[telescoping handle,]]; and

engaging the release and retaining mechanism to secure the new inner segment to the base.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the release and retaining mechanism comprises a retaining clip secured using one or more screws and disengaging the release and retaining mechanism [[further]] comprising

removing the one or more screws to separate the retaining clip from the base and engaging the release and retaining mechanism comprises tightening the one or more screws to secure the retaining clip to the base [[obtaining the new telescoping handle]].

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the block further comprises a first collar and a second collar separated by a gap, where the first collar and the second collar each has an aligned opening and the inner segment is received within the inner segment, and the release and retaining mechanism is provided within the gap to secure the inner segment to the base [[further comprising disengaging a plurality of release and retaining mechanisms]].

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[19]]21, wherein installing a new inner segment comprises providing an inner segment comprising a sleeve surrounding the inner segment and having a groove and inserting the sleeve within the first collar and the second collar such that the groove and the gap are aligned [[disengaging the release and retaining mechanism comprises locating the release and retaining mechanism]].

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[22]]19, further comprising [[wherein]] locating the release and retaining mechanism comprise locating the release and retaining mechanism using an identifying color associated with the release and retaining mechanism.

24. (New) The telescoping handle assembly of claim 11, wherein the inner segment comprises an end cap provided at one end of the inner segment which slides within the outer segment and sized and shaped to prevent the retaining

sleeve from sliding beyond the end cap when the release and retaining mechanism is installed.